(c) whether Government, before taking a final decision to go ahead with the amendments, would like to have full-scale public debate on its implications; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) As the Final Act of Uruguay Round Agreement requires members to bring their laws & regulations in conformity with their obligations under the Agreement, we will be required to amend the Patents Act, 1970, in accordance with the provisions of agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. These would be mainly in respect of the scope of patentability, term of protection, compulsory licensing provision etc.

(c) and (d) All the aspects of the Agreement will be considered and views expressed in this regard will be taken into account before finally amending the Patents Act to bring it in conformity with the TRIPs Agreement.

Campus for retraining retrenched workers

2619. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to create campus for retraining and re-employment of the retrenched workers and employees affected by the closure of various sick units in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) and (b) With the assistance from the National Renewal Fund (NRF), retraining of rationalised workers has started at five locations namely, Ahmedabad, Bombay, Calcutta, Indore and Kanpur by different agencies on a pilot scale basis in 1993-94. In addition to this, assistance from the NRF would also be available for retraining of rationalised workers at 21 different Advanced Training Institutes/Industrial Training Institutes in the country under the aegis of Ministy of Labour.

Issue of Shares to Emp loyees by PSUs

2620. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the public sector undertakings of Government of India which have 100% Government holdings are empowered to issue shares to employees through ratification in AGM EGM;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Cabinet had earlier approved some norms in the case allotment of shares of public sector to their employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof,

(e) whether Government have any proposal to amend the norms after alloting shares to the ONGC employees;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (g) The Government have not formulated any scheme enabling unlisted public sector undertakings to issue new shares to their employees. However, a few such undertakings have proposed to make issue of new equity shares to employees by passing the required Resolutions under the Companies Act. These issues are under examination in the Government. The norms earlier approved by the Cabiner Committee were in respect of a selected few companies only.

BIFR hearing of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.

2621. SHRI JIBON ROY :
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in the BIFR hearing of Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd. held on 31st August, 1994, the representative of Ministry of Industry had submitted that because of the postponement of the meeting of Group